

Message Text

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FOR FODAG

FOL PARIS 10323 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN GENEVA
MAR 28, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNESCO, AORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO GENEVA GROUP'S DEMARCHE TO M'BOW AND
ITS MEETING OF 22 MARCH

REF: PARIS 05163

1. UNESCO GENEVA GROUP (GG) MET 22 MAR 78, TO HEAR
AMBASSADORS TORRES AND CARDUCCI (ITALY) REPORT ON THEIR
VISIT WITH DG M'BOW ON 24 FEB 78, WHEN THEY PRESENTED
FOLLOWING AIDE-MEMOIRE SIGNED BY AMBASSADOR TORRES AS
CHAIRMAN OF GG:

ON BEHALF OF THE UNESCO GENEVA GROUP, I WOULD
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PAGE 02 STATE 081737

LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO MEET WITH US AGAIN
ON FEBRUARY 24, TO CONTINUE WITH THE DIALOGUE
ON BUDGET AND PROGRAM MATTERS, WHICH WAS BEGUN AT OUR
MEETING OF JANUARY 3. AT THAT TIME, YOU ASKED US WHAT
BUDGET LEVEL THE GENEVA GROUP MIGHT BE WILLING TO
SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT (1979-80) BIENNium. I AM PLEASED
TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU THE GROUP'S RESPONSE, WHICH

FOLLOWS BELOW. I SHOULD ADD THAT OF THE 10 REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, 9 OF THEM SUBSCRIBE TO THIS POSITION.

GENEVA GROUP POSITION: \$270 MILLION IS THE MAXIMUM WHICH THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP COULD SUPPORT, THOUGH THEY ARE NOT FULLY AGREED ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGES IN THE RATES OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE DOLLAR AND THE FRANC. SOME MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WOULD SUPPORT A FIXED FIGURE OF \$270 MILLION WHEREAS OTHERS MIGHT SUPPORT A DIFFERENT FIGURE IN THE LIGHT OF A) THE EXCHANGE RATE OPERATIVE AT THE TIME OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE; B) THE CONTENT AND PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET.

2. AMBASSADOR CARDUCCI EXPRESSED THE HOPE TO THE DG THAT THE BUDGET WOULD GIVE A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE SAVINGS, THEIR BASIS AND EXPLANATION; WHICH PROJECTS ARE DISCONTINUED AND WHICH ARE NEW; AND WHAT THE OPTIONS ARE.

3. THE DG RESPONDED THAT HE HAD DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CURRENT CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS AND TO BASE HIS CALCULATIONS ON A RATE OF EXCHANGE OF 4.9 FRENCH FRANCS TO THE DOLLAR. HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT IGNORE THE 13.9 PERCENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 081737

INCREASE IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL BUDGET WHEN WORKING ON ASSUMPTIONS FOR UNESCO'S NEXT BUDGET. HE CONTINUED THAT THE 104 C/5 WOULD PROVIDE FOR A 3.6 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE PARTICULARS RELATED TO THE OBJECTIVES AND A 1.9 PERCENT INCREASE FOR MANDATORY EXPENDITURES, MAKING A TOTAL INCREASE OF 5.5 PERCENT. FIGURING AN INFLATION RATE OF 17.4 PERCENT FOR THE TWO YEAR PERIOD THE DG SAID THE OVERALL INCREASE IN THE BUDGET WOULD BE ABOUT 23 PERCENT, SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN THE FIGURES DESIRED BY THE GG.

4. RESPONDING TO AMBASSADOR CARDUCCI'S POINTS THE DG SAID THESE POINTS WILL BE COVERED IN HIS WRITTEN AND ORAL PRESENTATION OF THE C/5 AT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING. REGARDING OPTIONS, THE C/5 WILL PRESENT OBJECTIVES AND THEMES FOLLOWED BY A LIST OF ACTIVITIES FROM WHICH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL BE ABLE TO CHOOSE THOSE IT WANTS.

5. THE MEETING WITH THE DG WAS CORDIAL BUT PERFUNCTORY, AND NEITHER FIGURES NOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITION WAS DISCUSSED IN DETAIL. THE DG EXPRESSED HIS

GRATITUDE FOR THE GG'S INPUT AND HOPED THIS TYPE OF OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS WOULD CONTINUE. IN CONCLUSION THE DG MADE A LONG STATEMENT ABOUT HOW BADLY HE IS SERVED BY HIS STAFF AND HOW HE HAS TO PUT IN LONG, HARD HOURS OF WORK TO MAKE UP FOR THEIR INCOMPETENCE.

6. DURING 22 MARCH MEETING OF GG, HERMAN GRUNDEL, DEPUTY PERMANENT DELEGATE FROM THE FRG, DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF THE UNESCO GLOBAL BUDGET FOR 1979-1980 WHICH HE WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN FROM A SOURCE IN THE SECRETARIAT. (COPIES BEING POUCHED IO.) THIS REPORT INDICATES A GRAND TOTAL BUDGET FOR 1979-1980 OF \$275.5 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 22.8 PERCENT.

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PAGE 04 STATE 081737

7. GG MEETING ENDED WITH BELIEF THAT GROUP HAD BEEN ABLE TO HOLD THE LINE TO SOME EXTENT EVEN THOUGH THE PROPOSED BUDGET IS OVER \$270 MILLION FIGURE. IN DECIDING WHAT NEXT ISSUE TO TACKLE, AMBASSADOR MOURIK (THE NETHERLANDS) SUGGESTED GG MIGHT TAKE ON MASS MEDIA ISSUE. (USDEL IN PAST HAS SUGGESTED INFORMATION GROUP CONSIDER TASKS OTHER THAN BUDGET-RELATED ITEMS, BUT OTHER MEMBERS, NOTABLY FRANCE, HAVE REFUSED TO DEVIATE FROM ORIGINAL MANDATE.) A SUGGESTION WAS MADE AS WELL THAT GG MIGHT COORDINATE WITH OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS TO MAKE A MORE UNIFIED ATTACK ON ISSUES OF CONCERN. NEXT GG MEETING WILL BE IN MAY. TORRES UNQUOTE COOPER

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